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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of

Docket No: Q61542

120803

Atsushi MURASHIMA

Appln. No.: 09/699,435

Group Art Unit: 2644

Confirmation No.: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Filed: October 31, 2000

For: SPEECH SIGNAL DECODING METHOD AND APPARATUS, SPEECH SIGNAL
ENCODING/DECODING METHOD AND APPARATUS, AND PROGRAM PRODUCT
THEREFOR

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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NOV 26 2003

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

1. E. Ekudden et al., "The Adaptive Multi-Rate Speech Coder", Speech Coding Proceedings, 1999 IEEE Workshop on Porvoo", June 20, 1999, pp. 117-119 with Abstract.
2. U.S. Patent No. 5,267,317 issued November 30, 1993.
3. European Patent Application Publication No. 0 731 348, published September 11, 1996.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

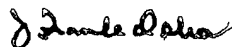
continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding European Search Report dated October 27, 2003, citing such documents and indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 25, 2003